

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 061440Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7254

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

ADDIS ABABA 300

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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USUN NEW YORK 2082

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 21

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CO, GB, BY, MR, SG

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL VISITORS TO GABON

1. SUMMARY: GOG PRESIDENT BONGO HAS RECEIVED FIVE MINISTERIAL EMISSARIES IN PAST THREE DAYS. WHILE SEVERAL ANNOUNCED OTHER REASONS FOR THEIR VISITS, ANGOLA WAS CLEARLY RECURRING THEME THROUGHOUT ENTIRE SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GOG PRESIDENT BONGO RECEIVED THREE VISITING MINISTERS ON JANUARY 3 AND TWO MORE ON JANUARY 5, REPRESENTING TOTAL OF FOUR COUNTRIES. FIRST DAY'S CALLERS WERE COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANDUNGU BULA NYATI OF ZAIRE; MINJUSTICE MALLAM OULD BRAHAM OF MAURITANIA; AND MINAGRICULTURE PIERRE BIGAYIMPUNZI OF BURUNDI. VISITORS
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ON JANUARY 5 WERE SENEGALESE MINCULTURE ALIOUNDE SENE

AND ANOTHER MAURITANIAN, MINISTER/SYG TO PRESIDENCY
MOHAMED ALI CHERIF.

3. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, ALL FIVE VISITORS BROUGHT PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM THEIR CHIEFS OF STATE. BURUNDIAN SAID PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF CALL WAS FOLLOW-UP TO LAST MONTH'S STATE VISIT BY MICOMBERO, WHILE SENEGALESE SPOKE AT LENGTH OF CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ZAIROIS, IN CONTRAST, IDENTIFIED ANGOLA AS MAJOR SUBJECT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BONGO, AND BURUNDIAN ADMITTED THAT ANGOLA HAD COME UP IN HIS TALKS AS WELL.

4. COMMENT: FIVE VISITS IN THREE DAYS ALMOST CERTAINLY REPRESENT FURTHER SPATE OF INTENSIVE PRE-SUMMIT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BY STATES SEEKING HOLD LINE AGAINST MPLA AND ITS SUPPORTERS. ZAIRIAN AND SENEGALESE EMISSARIES, IN PARTICULAR, WERE DOUBTLESS HERE PRIMARILY TO CONCERT STRATEGY ON BEHALF FNLA/UNITA, WHILE MAURITANIAN MINISTERS REPRESENT STATE WHICH BONGO FEELS OWES HIM SOMETHING FOR BACKING HE GAVE TO MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA. BURUNDIAN WAS PRESUMABLY LEAST WELCOME OF VISITORS IN WAKE GOB RECOGNITION MPLA (DESPITE EFFORTS BY BONGO DURING MICOMBERO'S STATE VISIT), AND MAY HAVE HAD ROUGH TIME TRYING EXPLAIN GOB ACTION TO AN ANGRY BONGO. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV00021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: D760004-0079
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760181/aaaacueq.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL VISITORS TO GABON
TAGS: PFOR, AO, CO, GB, BY, MR, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006